

Date of Hearing: July 13, 2015

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
Jim Frazier, Chair  
SB 461 (Hernandez) – As Amended July 8, 2015

**SENATE VOTE:** 38-0

**SUBJECT:** State Highway Route 164: relinquishment.

**SUMMARY:** Authorizes the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to relinquish to Los Angeles County a segment of State Route (SR) 164 south of Temple City. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Authorizes CTC to relinquish to Los Angeles County the portion of SR 164 (also known as Rosemead Boulevard) from Gallatin Road near Pico Rivera to the southern city limits of South El Monte in the vicinity of Rush Street, upon terms and conditions approved by CTC.
- 2) Authorizes CTC to relinquish to the City of South El Monte the portion of SR 164 (also known as Rosemead Boulevard) from the southern city limit of El Monte in the vicinity of the Rio Hondo River to the southern city limit of Temple City in the vicinity of Grand Avenue, upon terms and conditions approved by CTC.
- 3) Provides that the relinquishments will become effective immediately following recordation of the relinquishment resolution.
- 4) Specifies that following the effective date of relinquishment, the relinquished segments will no longer be state highways and may not be considered for future adoption as state highways.
- 5) Requires Los Angeles County and the City of El Monte to maintain signage directing motorists to the continuation of SR 164.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Defines a "state highway" as any roadway that is acquired, laid out, constructed, improved, or maintained as a state highway pursuant to constitutional or legislative authorization.
- 2) Statutorily identifies state highway system routes.
- 3) Specifies that it is the intent of the Legislature that the prescribed routes of the state highway system connect communities and regions of the state and that they serve the state's economy by connecting centers of commerce, industry, agriculture, mineral wealth, and recreation.
- 4) Provides for a two-step state highway relinquishment process allowing for the deletion of sections of the state highway system beginning with the Legislature amending existing law to allow for the state highway segment to be deleted and culminating with the CTC making a finding that it is in the best interest of the state to delete a specified portion of roadway from the system.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, this bill would result in unknown one-time costs ranging from minor up to several million to the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) prior to the relinquishment of the designated segment of SR 164 to LA County (State Highway Account). These costs would be offset in future years due to avoided maintenance costs on the relinquished segment.

**COMMENTS:** According to the author, the goal of SB 461 is to relinquish two segments of SR 164, also known as Rosemead Boulevard, to the County of Los Angeles and to the City of El Monte for the purpose of realizing a community-driven vision for a Complete Streets corridor project. This corridor project fully accommodates safe and convenient travel for all users of the road, especially vulnerable roadway users such as people with disabilities, seniors, youth, pedestrians and cyclists. This project also aims to compliment the surrounding Whittier Narrows Recreational Area - the largest park in the region - by enhancing recreation opportunities and access to the park.

Each session the Legislature passes, and the governor signs, numerous bills authorizing CTC to relinquish segments of the state highway system to local jurisdictions. Relinquishment transactions are generally preceded by a negotiation of terms and conditions between the local jurisdiction and Caltrans. Once an agreement has been established, CTC typically approves the relinquishment and verifies its approval via a resolution. That is the case with SB 461 in that Caltrans has negotiated agreements with both Los Angeles County and the City of El Monte for the specified segments of SR 164 that are proposed for relinquishment. SB 461 authorizes CTC to relinquish the road to these entities should they determine it is in the best interest of the state to do so.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

Los Angeles Board of Supervisors  
Narrows Mounted Assistance Unit

**Opposition**

None on file

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